

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

REF: STATE 167269

1. BELOW IS TEXT OF KABBANI'S REMARKS FOR WHITE HOUSE
CREDENTIALS CEREMONY.

2. QTE:

MR. PRESIDENT,

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO STAND HERE TODAY AS THE FIRST
AMBASSADOR OF MY COUNTRY AFTER A LONG SYRIAN ABSENCE FROM
YOUR BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL, WASHINGTON.

I FEEL GREATLY HONORED TO BE DESIGNATED BY PRESIDENT HAFEZ
ASSAD AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO YOUR COUNTRY, SO AS TO STRENGTHEN
THE RELATIONS RECENTLY RE-ESTABLISHED IN DAMASCUS BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

YOUR VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS WITH
PRESIDENT ASSAD, AND THE REMARKS EXCHANGED IN OUR HISTORICAL
CAPITAL, HAVE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF OPENING A NEW PAGE
BETWEEN US TO THE BENEFIT OF OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES, AS
WELL AS TO THE BENEFIT OF WORLD PEACE.

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I HAVE NO DOUBT, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT YOUR VISIT TO OUR COUNTRY -

AS SHORT AS IT WAS - HAS GIVEN YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME DIRECTLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE EARNEST DESIRE OF OUR PEOPLE TO LIVE IN PEACE, DIGNITY AND FREEDOM. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE EXACTLY THE SAME VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS WHICH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE STRUGGLED FOR. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE AMERICAN PIONEER FIGHTERS EXPRESSES THE DETERMINATION OF EACH PEOPLE TO LIVE IN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM.

TIME AND AGAIN, HISTORY HAS PROVEN THAT INJUSTICE AND AGGRESSION CANNOT PREVAIL FOREVER, AND THAT A PEOPLE WHOSE LIBERTY, INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY ARE VIOLATED WOULD CERTAINLY RISE TO REPEL THE AGGRESSION AND RECUPERATE ITS RIGHTS. DESPITE ALL THE EXPERIENCES OF HISTORY - YOUR BEING THE MOST PROMINENT - OUR REGION IS STILL THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION: PART OF OUR TERRITORIES IS UNDER OCCUPATION AND THE ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE IS BEING DENIED HIS VERY RIGHT OF EXISTENCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR REGION IS IN CONSTANT TENSION THREATENING NOT ONLY OUR PEOPLE, BUT ENDANGERING WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY AS WELL.

WE - AS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND ALL OTHER PEOPLES - LOVE OUR LAND. OUR SINCERE DESIRE OF SEEING THAT PEACE AND HAPPINESS REIGN OVER OUR LAND IS NO LESS THAN OUR DETERMINATION TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ANY AGGRESSION, REGARDLESS OF ITS BRUTALITY, AND NO MATTER HOW LONG IT LASTS.

WE ARE LIVING IN A COMPLICATED WORLD IN WHICH VARIOUS STRATEGIES ARE IN CONFLICT. HOWEVER, WE ALWAYS BELIEVE THAT HUMAN VALUES WILL WIN AT LAST AND THAT THE CONCEPTS OF RIGHT MUST GUIDE HUMANITY FOR THE SAKE OF THE HAPPINESS AND WELFARE OF OUR GLOBE.

MR. PRESIDENT,

I PROMISE TO CONSECRATE MY TIME AND EFFORT FOR ENHANCING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND SYRIAN PEOPLES. I AM CERTAIN THAT

YOU AND ALL OF THE OFFICIALS IN YOUR ADMINISTRATION WILL BE OF GREAT HELP TO ME IN FULFILLING MY DUTY IN THE BEST MANNER POSSIBLE.

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FINALLY, PERMIT ME, MR. PRESIDENT, TO SUBMIT TO YOU MY CREDENTIALS SENT BY PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD, COUPLED WITH HIS WISHES AND REGARDS TO YOU AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

UNQTE.

SCOTES

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